

October 26, 2012

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Contract Award - Vehicle Wheel Lifts**

Recommendation

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Southwest Lift & Equipment in the amount of One Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$178,961.18) for the purchase of six (6) Steril-Koni portable lifts.

Analysis

When the Arcadia Operations and Maintenance Facility was designed and built in 2002, the rear axle weight of Foothill Transit's bus fleet met the inground lifts' maximum weight capacity of 25,000 pounds per axle. The most recently purchased buses place heavier loads on the rear axles due to changes in bus design/technology and specifications in recent years.

A review of Foothill Transit's six in-ground vehicle lifts at the Arcadia operations and maintenance facility revealed that the rear axle weight of a number of vehicles in the current bus fleet is 28,000 pounds, exceeding the maximum weight capacity of the in-ground lifts. As a safety precaution Arcadia service contractor, First Transit has been instructed to immediately cease using the in-ground lifts. Three sets of wheel lifts that were procured in 2008 to facilitate maintenance of Foothill Transit's fleet of 60-foot articulated coaches are available and currently being used in the short term to perform routine maintenance on the non-articulated bus fleet.

Members of the Foothill Transit management team investigated two options to address the problem. One option was to upgrade the existing in-ground lifts and the second option was to purchase portable wheel lifts.

Upgrading the existing in-ground vehicle lifts to meet or exceed the per-axle weight of the bus fleet would cost approximately \$130,000 each or \$780,000 for six lifts. In addition, the six service bays where the in-ground lifts are currently installed would remain unusable during the upgrade for approximately four weeks each.

Purchasing six portable wheel lifts will not require any in-ground modification to the six service bays. The wheel lifts can be delivered within two weeks after receipt of the order from Foothill Transit. The portable lifts will provide 36,000 pounds of lifting capacity per axle, which significantly exceeds the current rear axle weight of the bus

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fleet. The procurement will be undertaken by way of the Western States Contracting Alliance as allowed in Foothill Transit approved Procurement Policies.

Budget Impact

Capital funding is available through Facility Repairs and Improvement Project in Foothill Transit's approved Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

Sincerely,



Roland M. Cordero
Director of Facilities



Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director